

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 757
Judiciary

(Delegate Mosby, *et al.*)

Public Safety - Handguns Used in Crime - Trace Request

This bill requires a law enforcement agency that has seized or recovered a handgun used in the commission of a crime, as soon as practicable after the seizure or recovery, to submit a trace request to the Maryland State Police Gun Center or the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATFE) National Tracing Center.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements are procedural and do not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None. The bill's requirements are procedural and do not directly affect governmental finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland Gun Center in the Firearms Enforcement Unit of the Department of State Police, which opened January 1, 2013, was established in an effort to reduce gun crime and assist State and local law enforcement. The center operates around the clock and is available to any prosecutor or law enforcement officer to assist with the interpretation and prosecution of both federal and State firearms laws. The center is comprised of five employees. In 2016, the center conducted approximately 1,500 traces of seized handguns in the State.

According to ATFE, firearms tracing is the systematic tracking of the movement of a firearm recovered by a law enforcement official from its first sale by the manufacturer or importer through the distribution chain (wholesaler/retailer) to the first retail purchaser. Comprehensive firearms tracing is the routine tracing of every crime gun recovered within a geographic area or specific law enforcement jurisdiction. ATFE accepts firearms trace requests from any law enforcement agency in the course of a bona fide criminal investigation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Garrett, and Montgomery counties; Comptroller's Office; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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nb/lgc

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